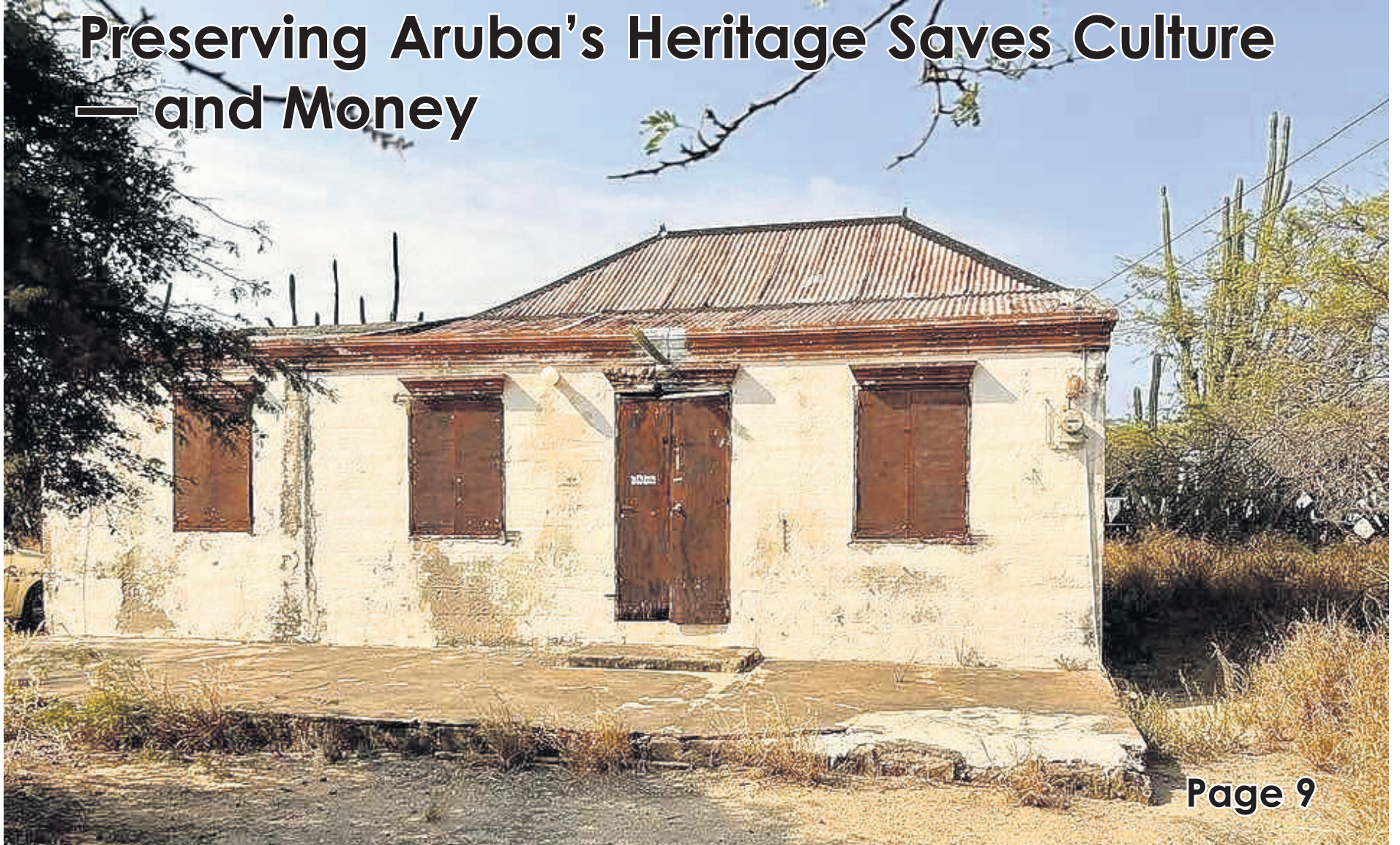




Preserving Aruba's Heritage Saves Culture — and Money



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



Happy Hour
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10



Tel +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 | Reservations at wateredge-aruba.com | Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort | Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM
Full Service Bar
Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com



Fervent and fake: High-glam AI avatars boost Trump ahead of midterms

Washington, United States
Clad in swimsuits or military fatigues, the blonde women lavish praise on President Donald Trump and tear into his rivals -- but these influencers are AI-generated, flooding tech platforms with fervent political messaging ahead of the U.S. midterm election. The rise of hyper-realistic AI avatars -- parroting Trump's political slogans such as "America First" and echoing his talking points on issues such as immigration -- underscores the use of new technology in efforts to energize his Make America Great Again (MAGA) conservative base.

"Where are all my MAGA friends at? If you voted for Trump, say it loud in the



U.S. President Donald Trump watches a CNN clip on the "MAGA GOP View of Trump" as he speaks at the FII PRIORITY Summit at the Faena Hotel on March 27, 2026 in Miami Beach, Florida.

comments and you've got yourself a new follower from Texas," an AI-created woman declares on TikTok, sporting a red MAGA hat. "Trump is the future of

counts across TikTok, Instagram and Facebook.

"The growing wave of political AI influencers amid the 2026 elections is a glimpse into a future where hyper-targeted AI content can be used to shape public opinion," Andrew Yoon of CivAI, a nonprofit focused on AI's capabilities and dangers, told AFP. Such content is "increasingly difficult to detect, especially when made by sophisticated operators," Yoon said.

As AI technology becomes more and more sophisticated, online manipulation using phony influencers could "become even more personalized and difficult to control," he added.

One AI influencer on Instagram -- featuring a life-like female soldier posing alongside Trump -- amassed nearly a million followers before the account was suspended. Referring to the synthetic soldier, Justine Moore, an AI-focused partner at Silicon Valley investor Andreessen Horowitz, wrote on X: "I'm genuinely floored by how many dudes are following influencers that are clearly AI."

America," reads text overlaid on another AI-generated TikTok video depicting a teenage girl on a beach, U.S. flag fluttering in the background. In an Instagram clip set to the Village People's "YMCA," an avatar portraying a "MAGA patriot" says she "came out of the closet as a Trump supporter."

It's not clear who is behind the AI accounts and whether they are part of a coordinated influence operation ahead of the November elections that will determine whether Republicans maintain control of Congress. Earlier this year, Trump himself posted on his Truth Social platform a video of a platinum blonde AI avatar -- sporting the high-glam look popular among his fans -- that pushed unfounded corruption allegations against California's Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom.

- **'Financial profit'** -
The influencers compete for online attention with anti-Trump AI accounts, including a Facebook page that depicts the president riding a tricycle down a rubbish-strewn street in grubby clothes or fleeing a sword-wielding mob. Disinformation typically surges around elections, propelled by automated bots, trolls and phony accounts that amplify false narratives and push them into mainstream political discourse. The potential for manipulation is multiplying with AI. Researchers warn that AI deepfakes -- used to target global leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky -- can influence voter turnout and distort geopolitical events.

- **'Shape public opinion'** -
In recent months, U.S. media have detected hundreds of AI-generated pro-Trump influencers -- young men and women depicted in military fatigues or dressed as immigration agents -- commenting on hot-button political issues including abortion and the Iran conflict. The Governance and Responsible AI Lab (GRAIL) at Purdue University has also tracked numerous such ac-

Paseo Herencia

WEEKLY LIVE SHOWS

8PM

MON	LATIN DANCE SHOW <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
WED	CULTURAL DANCE SHOW <i>By Youth in Action</i>
THU	ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
SUN	VIOLIN SHOW <i>By Angela Flores</i>

WATERSHOWS

EVERY NIGHT AT

7:30 8:30 9:30

Stores are open from Monday to Saturday 10am to 10pm and Sunday 5pm to 10pm
Located in Palm Beach high rise area, across the Holiday Inn Hotel
www.paseoherencia.com

Stanford Breakthrough: “Immune system reset” cures Type 1 diabetes in mice

STANFORD, CA — In a major leap toward a permanent solution for autoimmune diseases, Stanford Medicine researchers have successfully reversed Type 1 diabetes (T1D) in mice by “re-educating” their immune systems. The study, published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, achieved a 100% success rate in both preventing and curing the disease without the need for life-long insulin or toxic immune suppression.

The “Hybrid” Immune Strategy

Led by lead author Preksha Bhagchandani and senior author Seung Kim, MD, PhD, the team addressed the two primary hurdles of T1D treatment: the original autoimmune attack and the rejection of transplanted cells.

Their solution creates mixed chimerism—a hybrid im-



Mary Jane Navarro prepares to wash cells of serum, separated from the blood of vaccinated mice, while working on vaccine and protein research in the Veessler Lab at the University of Washington on May 10, 2022 in Seattle, Washington.

mune system containing cells from both the donor and the recipient. This “reset” allows the body to accept donor cells as its own while simultaneously halting the autoimmune destruction of insulin-producing islet cells.

The Breakthrough Protocol The researchers utilized a “gentle” conditioning regimen that avoids the harsh chemotherapy typically

required for stem-cell transplants:

Targeted Preparation: Mice received low-dose radiation and specific antibodies (such as α CD117) to clear space in the bone marrow.

Dual Transplant: A combined transplant of blood-forming stem cells and pancreatic islet cells from the same donor was administered.

The Tweak: The addition of baricitinib, a drug already used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, was the key to achieving 100% efficacy.

Results and Safety

The study reported unprecedented outcomes:

19 out of 19 mice at high genetic risk for T1D never developed the disease.

9 out of 9 mice with established, long-standing T1D

were fully cured, maintaining normal blood sugar levels for the duration of the study. Zero cases of graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) were observed, and the mice remained immunocompetent and resistant to infections.

The Path to Human Application

Because the antibodies and drugs used—including human-ready versions like briquilimab—are already in clinical practice or trials, researchers believe human translation is a “logical next step”.

The primary remaining challenge is the supply of donor cells. To solve this, the Stanford team is investigating the use of lab-grown stem-cell-derived islets to eliminate the dependence on deceased organ donors. □

How “a cheerful giver” is crafting a legacy of hope and community

ELIZABETH TOWN, PA — In a world that often moves at a frantic, digital pace, there is a small corner of Pennsylvania where time seems to slow down, signaled by the sweet, nostalgic scent of “Grandma’s Kitchen.” This is the home of A Cheerful Giver, a candle company that has spent over three decades proving that a successful business isn’t just measured by its profit margins, but by the warmth it spreads through its community.

What began as a small family venture in 1991 has blossomed into a national symbol of resilience, American craftsmanship, and, most importantly, the spirit of giving back.

Fragrance with a Heartbeat At first glance, A Cheerful Giver is known for its high-quality, long-burning Keepers of the Light jar candles. These primitive-style vessels, wrapped in homespun ribbon and topped with rustic black lids, have become staples



For over 20 years, CODI has proudly partnered with A Cheerful Giver, where our differently-abled individuals wick every candle with care.

in homes seeking a cozy, “farmhouse” aesthetic. Their scents—ranging from the spicy notes of “Mama’s Blueberry Cobbler” to the crisp, seasonal “Praline Caramel Sticky Buns”—are designed to evoke

memories of home, safety, and comfort. However, the true “magic” of these candles isn’t just in the wax and wick; it’s in the hands that pack them.

A Mission of Inclusion

The most uplifting chapter of the A Cheerful Giver story is their Wick-Clip Program. For years, the company has partnered with community organizations to provide meaningful employment for adults with

developmental disabilities. In many industrial settings, individuals with special needs are overlooked, but at A Cheerful Giver, they are the backbone of the operation. These employees are responsible for the intricate task of wicking and clipping the candles before they are poured. This program provides more than just a paycheck; it offers a sense of purpose, a social community, and the pride of knowing that their work will eventually light up a stranger’s home.

“We don’t just make candles,” one warehouse manager noted. “We build confidence. When you see the smile on a worker’s face as they finish a batch, you realize that this light we’re selling started right here in the warehouse.”

The “Keepers of the Light” Philosophy

The company’s flagship line, “Keepers of the Light,” is more than a catchy name—it is a mission statement. □

European minnows bid to challenge social media giants

Paris, France

A flurry of new schemes to launch Europe-based social networks faces a steep, rocky road to seduce users away from American and Asian giants in the sector. Founders nevertheless see opportunity in the disillusionment and distrust of major platforms that have spiked alongside transatlantic tensions under Donald Trump's second presidency.

"We think the timing is perfect, in a context where relations between Europe and the US are still deteriorating," said Gregoire Vigroux, co-founder of Croatia-based network eYou.

"It's time for Europe to equip itself with its own social networks," he added. Opening to users on Tuesday, eYou is one of a number of efforts on the old continent, including W -- a would-be competitor to X announced in January -- or Eurosky, a platform for accessing independent social networks launched last month.

Bulle (French for "bubble") also launched in January promising a "healthy social network" while Monnett -- a hybrid of TikTok and Instagram -- is set for full release in July.

"The rejection targeting the (American) platforms



This combination of images created on October 10, 2023, shows (L) SpaceX, Twitter and electric carmaker Tesla CEO Elon Musk during his visit at the Viva tech technology startups and innovation fair at the Porte de Versailles exhibition centre in Paris on June 16, 2023 and (R) the new Twitter logo rebranded as X, pictured on a screen in Paris on July 24, 2023.

is still stronger today" than in the past, said Romain Badouard, a researcher at France's Inria computing institute specialising in social networks.

He suggested that a "conservative turn in Silicon Valley" had proved unpopular with European users seeing the likes of X owner Elon Musk or Meta (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp) chief Mark Zuckerberg cosy up to Trump.

- 'Enormous graveyard' -

At W, "the idea is to bring back what was once Twitter in the good old days," said founder Anna Zeiter ahead of the Saturday launch.

Some interest is apparent among investors and users in the new crop of networks.

In a second fundraising round, eYou gamered 300,000 euros (\$353,000) in late 2025, while Monnett claims more than 65,000 users on the beta version of its app.

But such figures would be rounding errors to the giants of the sector, who count in hundreds of millions of users and billions in revenue.

The dominance of incumbent players has left little space for challenge beyond niche offerings like Mastodon or Be Real.

"The world of social networks is an enormous graveyard," eYou's Vigroux acknowledged, adding that "99 percent of European social networks launched

in the last 10 years have fallen flat."

Badouard pointed to the so-called "network effect" that powered the snowballing of major platforms' user numbers as a factor now shielding them from competition.

For users on Instagram and TikTok, "all the people they know and the accounts they follow" are on the existing networks.

But the "technological maturity" of the latest wave of challengers could still count in their favour, he said.

"They're answering to a lot of the expectations users have," Badouard said.

- Out of the algorithm? -

There is a familiar litany of criticisms levelled at the big players, including sorting users into "filter bubbles", unevenly-enforced moderation and addictive design.

European would-be competitors see those as openings to vaunt their own virtues.

W promises to keep all but verified human users from posting, while eYou says it will "promote users sharing content considered trustworthy".

"It's really important for us that it's not an algorithm that determine what's."

Yo-Yo Ma's "American revival" tour brings communities together

PELHAM, TN - In an era where headlines are often dominated by division, a different kind of sound is echoing across the United States. Renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, alongside a diverse collective of artists including T Bone Burnett and the group Arrested Development, has officially launched the "American Revival" tour. This nationwide initiative is dedicated to healing social fractures through the universal language of music, storytelling, and open dialogue.

The tour, which saw a key performance this month at The Caverns in Tennessee, isn't just about world-class performances in traditional concert halls. Instead, the



"Revival" focuses on community-centric gatherings in unique venues and town squares. The goal is simple yet profound: to use culture to bridge gaps, spark conversation, and remind citizens of their shared humanity.

"Music has a unique power

to help us listen—not just to the notes, but to each other," Ma noted in recent reflections on his mission. He has long advocated that culture is the "social glue" that helps us create trust and belonging. The "American Revival" acts as a live laboratory for this belief, in-

viting local residents to step away from their screens and into a shared physical space.

Each stop on the tour features collaborative moments where local voices are integrated into the experience. These "Cultural Town Halls" allow residents to share stories of resilience and hope, which are then woven into the evening's musical tapestry. By doing so, the tour transforms from a standard concert into a deeply personal reflection of each community it visits.

The impact is already being felt across the heartland. In cities where civic tension has been a concern, attendees have reported a renewed sense of connec-

tion. At recent stops in the South, the atmosphere was described as "electric," with audiences of all backgrounds finding common ground in the melodies of Bach and the rhythmic storytelling of his collaborators. "I came here feeling like I didn't have much in common with my neighbors anymore," said one attendee after a performance. "But listening to these stories and this music, you realize we all want the same things: peace, connection, and a future for our children".

The "American Revival" tour is scheduled to continue through the summer of 2026, with upcoming dates at landmark locations like Red Rocks. □

Portugal's last circus elephant becomes pioneer for European exiles

Lisbon, Portugal

Portugal's last circus elephant, Julie, is to become one of the first residents of a retirement home for the pachyderms that could become a major draw as European nations clamp-down on performing animals.

Julie, who joined the Victor Hugo Cardinali circus in 1988, will follow Kariba, who has been based at a Belgian zoo, in moving to the British-run Pangea Trust sanctuary in Alentejo, southern Portugal, in June. Julie, who is aged about 40 and came originally from southern Africa, had not been part of the circus



This undated handout picture taken at an unknown location and released by the Victor Hugo Cardinali Circus on May 6, 2026, shows Julie (l), the last circus elephant in Portugal, pictured next to a companion.

show since 2024, when Portugal joined a host of countries who have banned performing animals. According to Pangea managing director Kate Moore,

there are more than 600 elephants in circuses and zoos across Europe. And many may need a new home but the 400 hectare (1,000 acre) sanctuary can take a maximum of 30.

"Many circuses and some zoos in Europe are reaching the point -- through changing legislation, the loss of a companion, or simply a decision to move on -- where keeping elephants is no longer possible or appropriate," said Moore.

"We can only take a small number of the 600 elephants but elephants like Julie and Kariba would be priority because elephants

are really social animals and it's not good for them to be kept on their own," she told AFP.

"They need companionship and we want to bring them together."

Circus director Victor Hugo Cardinali said he would be closely involved in Julie's move.

"This has not been an easy decision, as she has been a member of our family for decades, but we believe it is the right decision for Julie. Working with Pangea on her transition to her new home was a critical factor in our deliberations," Cardinali said. □

No trees, no fans: surviving extreme heat in India's salt pans

India

India faces challenging heatwaves each year, but few places endure conditions as searing as the country's western desert salt pans, where workers rely on simple techniques to survive almost unbearable temperatures.

Up to 50,000 workers in Gujarat spend eight months on the remote salt pans without electricity or healthcare, relying on a tanker to deliver drinking and washing water every 25 days.

They use shaded rest breaks, cloth-cooled water bottles and staggered hours to survive.

In Gujarat's Little Rann of Kutch summer temperatures routinely cross 45C, and can climb to 47-48C.

The same dry heat that makes life punishing also makes the desert ideal for salt production -- Gujarat produces roughly three-quarters of India's total salt output.

"We work in staggered timing... doing our work in early mornings and after sunset," said 42-year-old Babul Narayan, who rakes the salt as brine water dries in shallow pools.

During the hottest hours, many retreat to makeshift huts -- frames of sticks draped with coarse homespun cloth, plastered with wild donkey dung.



This photograph taken on April 29, 2026 shows a salt pan worker raking harvested salt at an alkali flat in the Little Rann of Kutch region in Gujarat.

"We sit here every two to three hours, so that we do not feel weak or dizzy," said 17-year-old salt worker Bhavna Rathore.

The dung blocks the sun and allows heat to escape, while the rough cloth allows some air to pass through, she explained.

The huts offer shelter in a landscape without trees or natural shade, and where the sun reflects harshly off the white salt crust.

- 'Heatwave' -

Kanchan Narayan, 44, uses a damp cloth-wrapped bottle hung on a string,

cooling the drinking water inside via evaporation.

"The wind helps to cool the water," she said.

Poomima, a salt pan worker, sips black tea during the day -- saying the hot drink induces sweating in the dry weather to cool the body. The salt is produced by pumping saline water from bore-wells into shallow pans, where the liquid evaporates under the sun and wind.

Workers rake the surface daily to ensure even crystallisation. Over weeks, a thick crust of salt forms, which the workers break

and stack into mounds.

The job has always involved enduring harsh conditions, but this year the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts an "above-normal number of heatwave days" across several regions, including Gujarat. Workers are exposed to the heat for longer than before.

Previously, they relied on expensive diesel pumps to bring the saline water to the surface. But a switch to solar has brought down costs and allowed families to operate the pans for longer.

That means work that used to end in March now continues into the hottest months.

- 'Fever' -

The consequences for workers can be deadly, with regular reports of fatigue, dizziness and nausea -- signs of heat stress, when the body's natural cooling systems are overwhelmed. This can cause organ failure and even death.

Several studies have found high levels of dehydration, heat stress and even signs of kidney malfunction among these communities.

"I take a paracetamol whenever fever becomes high," said Kanchan, a rare worker wearing rubber boots -- to protect against prolonged exposure to brine, that can crack skin so deep it bleeds.

India has no fixed legal temperature at which work must stop.

Instead it relies on IMD heatwave thresholds -- around 40C for alerts and 47C for "severe" conditions -- with local authorities imposing restrictions.

The desert conditions make the extreme heat marginally more survivable -- at low humidity, sweat evaporates more quickly off the skin, cooling the body. □

Circus tackles jihadist nightmares of Burkina Faso's children

Abidjan, Ivory Coast

By miming children juggling ammunition found on the ground or driven mad by fear, the four acrobats hope to express what is too painful for words: how their native Burkina Faso's jihadist conflict has ruined countless childhoods.

Baptised "Souffle" (Breath), the Dafra Circus's latest performance "is about life... and when we talk about life we talk about hope, and hope means the children", the troupe's choreographer, Jean Adolphe Sanou, told AFP after a performance in neighbouring Ivory Coast.

For more than a decade, Burkina Faso has been at war with jihadists who have killed, kidnapped, raped or recruited thousands of the west African country's children, according to the United Nations.

Rights groups such as Human Rights Watch also accuse the Burkinabe army



Burkina Faso's Dafra Circus performs at the 14th edition of the African Entertainment Arts Market (MASA) at the palais de la Culture in Abidjan on April 17, 2026.

and its allied civilian volunteer fighters of abuses, including towards minors.

Dafra Circus does not touch on that part of the issue -- the army has cracked down on criticism since taking power through two military coups in 2022.

But for nearly an hour at a concert hall in Ivory Coast's economic capital Abidjan, the troupe's performing quartet translated the de-

spair, innocence and resistance of children facing the unspeakable for several hundred spectators.

Slipping into the skin of a traumatised child, one of the men executed a series of pirouettes, swaying steps and somersaults to mimic the onset of insanity.

For the troupe's artistic director Moustapha Konate, circus is an art that "makes

it possible to bring together as many people as possible" because it "draws them in through feats, beauty, fluidity of movement".

In the 30-year-old's eyes, dance is "perhaps the easiest way for us artists" to "deal with a topic".

- Whole troupe 'affected' - Konate's position is clear: Dafra Circus "takes a stand against the involvement of children in wars".

According to a UN report from last year, children suffered more than any other part of the population from Burkina Faso's spiral of violence, with more than 2,200 enduring grave abuses between 2022 and 2024.

Mostly attributed to jihadist groups, the most frequent abuses involve murder, mutilation, abductions, recruitment as child soldiers, exploitation and sexual violence.

"Souffle" takes inspiration

from the lives of the artists, who travelled from their base in Burkina Faso's second city Bobo-Dioulasso to perform at a festival in Abidjan in mid-April.

Within the circus, "everyone has been affected" by the violence, Konate affirmed.

Despite its dark subject matter, the show received a rapturous reception in both the Burkinabe capital Ouagadougou and the troupe's Bobo-Dioulasso hometown.

"Many people aren't familiar with the circus," Konate said. "Seeing circus mixed with dance... theatre, juggling and storytelling was something new for them."

Once the lights had dimmed and the spectators emptied out of the Abidjan events hall, Yeli Gnougoh Coulibaly departed, moved by the performance. □

Fearing return to war, Iran conservationists shore up damaged

Tehran, Iran

As fears of renewed conflict hang over Iran, conservationists are shoring up battered historic sites and taking stock of the damage caused by the war with the United States and Israel, though experts warn some repairs could take years.

At Golestan Palace, a defining cultural landmark in central Tehran, shattered mirrors, broken doors and debris from ornate ceilings now lie scattered across parts of the site after shockwaves from strikes on the capital following the outbreak of war on February 28.

The former royal residence, known for its sprawling gardens, pools and royal halls, has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2013.

The fragile truce in place since April 8 has allowed experts to begin gauging the scale of the damage, though the complex remains closed to the public. "The damage has been assessed at several levels, but a more detailed spe-



Visitors walk through the damaged interiors of the historic Golestan Palace in Tehran on April 4, 2026.

cialised evaluation is still underway," Ali Omid Ali, a restoration specialist and head of the technical engineering department at Golestan Palace, told AFP.

For now, he said, teams are focused on stabilising damaged structures and preventing further collapse before broader repair work can begin.

"We need a more stable situation to start the restoration process," he said.

Initial estimates suggest work at the site could cost around \$1.7 million, though the figure could rise follow-

ing a full assessment, he added, noting that repairs could take "two or more years".

The palace, known for blending 19th-century Persian arts and architecture with European styles and motifs, is among at least five UNESCO-listed sites damaged during the conflict.

"Fifty to 60 percent of its doors and windows are broken," Jabbar Avaj, director of the Golestan Palace museums, told the official IRNA news agency.

The palace's famed Mirror Hall -- known for shimmer-

ing mosaics covering its ceilings and walls -- and the Marble Throne, a ceremonial platform supported by statues representing mythical and royal symbols, were "seriously damaged", he said.

- 'Shadow of war lingers' - Other affected UNESCO-listed sites include Chehel Sotoun Palace and the Masjed-e Jame mosque in Isfahan, as well as the prehistoric sites of the Khormabad Valley.

Beyond the listed sites, the war affected at least 140 culturally and historically significant locations across Iran, according to Hassan Fartousi, head of Iran's National Commission for UNESCO.

Among them are Tehran's Marble Palace, the Teymourdash house and the sprawling Saadabad Palace complex in northern Tehran, a former royal residence set within a vast park and home to several museums.

"The shadow of war still lingers over Iran's sky, and in this situation, we cannot

plan very well for restoration," Fartousi said.

While the ceasefire since April 8 has largely halted fighting in major urban centres housing cultural sites, sporadic clashes have occurred in coastal areas and Gulf waters, and talks have so far failed to produce a lasting settlement.

Fartousi also worries that even after repairs, damaged heritage sites may never recover their original character, noting the entire idea of cultural heritage rests on "the concept of originality".

"Even if we do the restoration with our great artists and specialists in restoration, where will the originality be?" he said.

Funding remains a major challenge, with the Iranian government yet to announce a restoration budget as it struggles to offset the impact of the war and a US blockade that has severely disrupted exports.

"Unfortunately, UNESCO and other international organisations have limited budget," he said. □

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

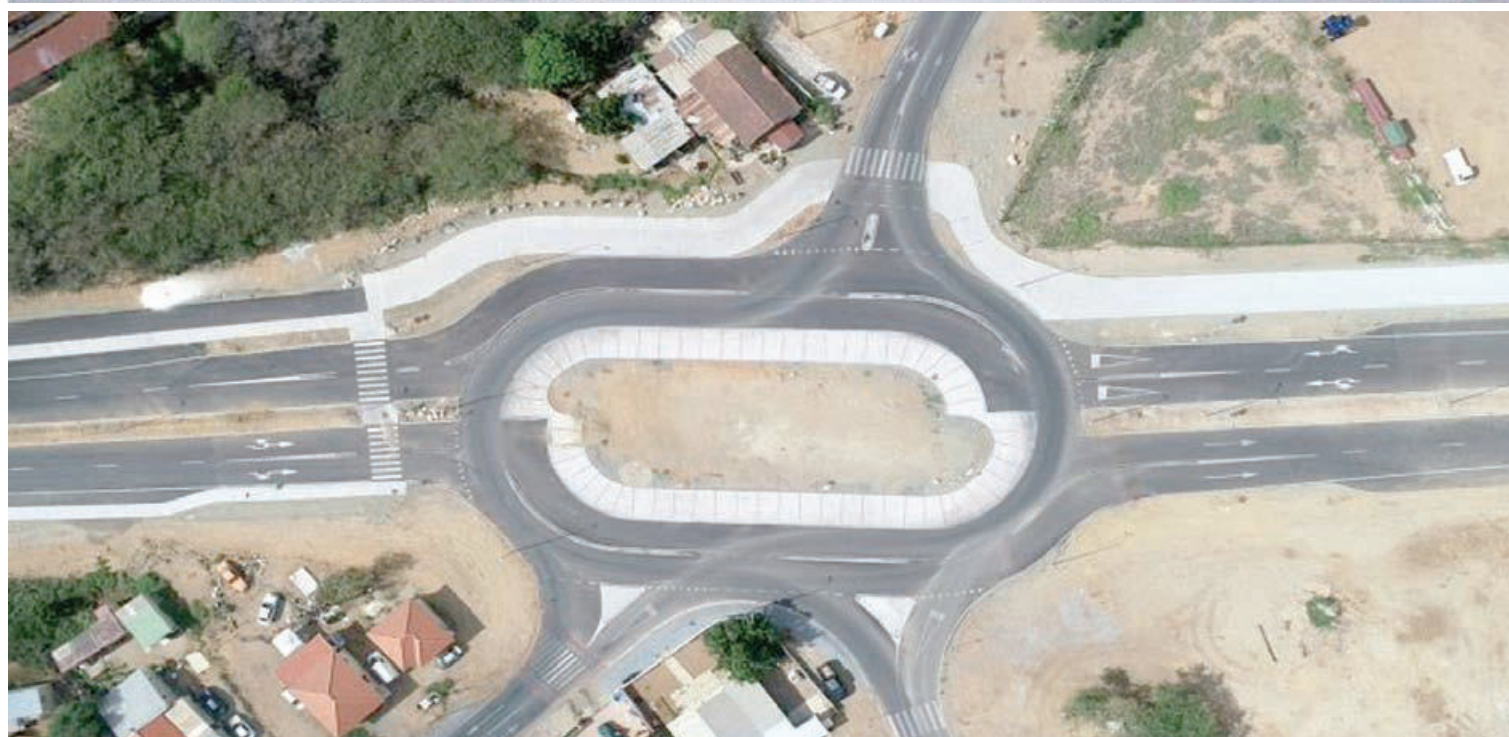
Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the “fast” lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need



to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the “paperclip” roundabout) Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the “paperclip” roundabout on the Watty Vos Boule-

vard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can

be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

“Las Americas” roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located farther west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two ex-

its on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt!

THE WEST DECK
 ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

WEEKLY SPECIALS
 RESERVATIONS@THEWESTDECK.COM TEL: 587-2667 SPECIALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

OPEN HOURS 10:30 AM - 11:00 PM

@THEWESTDECK

MARGARITA MONDAY
 Starting at \$10

TACO TUESDAY
 Beef, Chicken or Shrimp Tacos starting at \$15

WING WEDNESDAY
 By the dozen \$18

Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses. Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you want to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is



better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi



Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The

waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicuri is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other water sport activities.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails. Hadicuri





infini
by Urban Coast

f Infini Aruba
www.infiniaruba.com
J.E. Irausquin Blvd
@ infiniaruba
+297 699 3982
reservations@infiniaruba.com



Preserving Aruba's Heritage Saves Culture — and Money

ORANJESTAD – Renovating is always better and cheaper than demolishing and rebuilding, especially when dealing with buildings or houses older than 50 years. That is what Daphne Every, architect and Monument Advisor, emphasized during a lecture at the University of Aruba.

Daphne Every, MSc, was responsible for the restoration project of Cas Veneranda, but her knowledge goes far beyond that. A graduate of UNC and UPenn, she already won the prestigious Merit Award from the American Society of Landscape Architecture while still a student. Among other things, that opened doors for the Aruban to work with the Disney company designing luxury hotels. Every returned to Aruba in 2008, where she transitioned into restorative architecture and became the local expert in heritage preservation.

Within the framework of her upcoming project, the restoration of the buildings of Juliana School and Beatrix School, she also opened the door for a university student, Jennifer Wever, to complete an internship. An internship that opened the eyes of the EPI Bouwkunde graduate, who is preparing to enter her final year of Organization, Governance and Management at the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) of the University of Aruba. Wever completed her internship with a presentation that was considered important for the entire community.

The lecture, organized by the Center of Lifelong Learning of the University of Aruba, carried the theme "Architecture and Heritage of Aruba," which explored the evolution of Aruba's unique structural identity, from traditional cunucu houses to other Dutch co-

lonial constructions. In addition to giving a brief history of these constructions, the session focused on the cultural significance of Aruba's structural heritage, which can be catalogued as the physical soul of Aruba's collective memory.

An important aspect of the lecture was to deconstruct persistent social myths and misconceptions that often obstruct conservation efforts. It also addressed the mistaken and common ideas regarding the complexity between private and public property, and the common belief in Aruba that restoring a monument is an insurmountable financial burden. Affordable funds from the Netherlands have been made available for restoration, and although these are intended for commercial projects, there are also movements aimed at helping individuals and families restore traditional Aruban homes.

Jennifer Wever had always been interested in creation. After EPI, she went to the Netherlands to study International Spatial Development. Even so, she herself had not been fully aware of the value and beauty of Aruba's old buildings and houses, which are often left abandoned. Her internship changed that perspective. For that reason, she titled her presentation: "An internship changed the way I view heritage preservation."

"My future is connected to it now," Wever said. But to guarantee a future, information is needed, and one of the problems is that data about old houses and buildings is scarce and scattered everywhere. "I called them islands of information, which made me realize that what we know about our heritage is



incomplete." On the other hand, Wever said she was surprised by what she was able to discover. Her period at EPI focused on functionality and efficiency, which often suggested that it was "better to start over." But after analyzing monuments, she became fascinated by the amount of detail that went into old buildings. Details that illustrate a deep understanding of Aruba's climate. The Juliana School building, for example, was designed with the environment in mind, including how to deal with rain. This realization showed Wever the value of preserving heritage, not only to protect the buildings themselves, but also to incorporate this knowledge into future projects, especially the innovative and sustainable aspects of "old" buildings.

Passion

For Daphne Every, preserving Aruba's structural heritage is more than work — it is her passion. Every reviewed what architecture is, explaining that besides design and construction, it is also part of culture. "They are symbols of art and history. You do not need to visit a museum to see them. You can pass by them, or even live in them. And historic architecture is the best representation of a design that is the result of the place where it is located, meaning it captures the spirit of that place." In other



words, it encapsulates the history and landscape of a country, and that applies to Aruba as well.

Not every old building is a monument, however. Modernization has existed in every era. Therefore, for a building to be designated as a monument, it must be at least 50 years old and preferably remain intact in terms of its original appearance.

And this is where Every addressed the mistaken ideas that exist regarding restoration. Changes can be made to monumental buildings, as long as regulations are followed — for example, the street-facing façade must remain original. Even the color can be changed. Not to mention the interior, because the function does not always stay the same. Furthermore, it is not always possible to find the same materials that were originally used. "So you have to be flexible and look for alternatives without taking away the originality, in order to preserve the essence of the structure." That also happened with Cas Veneranda, which was restored with all modern necessities while still complying with sustainability and efficiency standards.

The myth that these buildings cost more to restore than to simply demolish must disappear, Every em-

phasized. Walls in the past were thicker, which helps regulate temperature; their placement and the design of features such as windows help keep these buildings and houses very cool; and the materials that can be salvaged are of better quality than those available today. In addition, lime was previously used for plaster instead of cement. According to Every, lime is not only better, but also better for the environment because it absorbs CO₂.

Daphne Every also highlighted the possibilities for businesses to gain access to affordable restoration funds, as well as the efforts by the Government of Aruba to help families around Aruba preserve their homes. In fact, work will soon begin on identifying two monuments in each district that will be restored in order to preserve the character of the area while also encouraging individuals to do the same.

The presentation in the Aula of the University of Aruba was well attended, something the presenters were very pleased with, because it illustrates interest in a topic that can help change the perception that restoration of Aruba's architectural heritage is something highly important and achievable for Aruba.

The district of Savaneta: A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad) — Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499.



This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" (Kibrahacha) trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not

be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC is-



lands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to

what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)— Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people



who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts

to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one



of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might

end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

Source: Remedii Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)— Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CIIES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high

number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that you have to pay before leaving. This would surely not be a pleasant experience. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the

respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours!



Fun facts about the Terns

(Oranjestad)— Throughout the months of January to September, big groups of terns migrate to the island for breeding season. These terns are important seabirds, and their presence on Aruba is a unique phenomenon. Here are some fun facts about terns.

Why terns matter

Terns (Stemchi in Papiamentu) migrate annually to Aruba for breeding season. Our island, hosts 10 different species of terns which is crucial for global seabird conservation. 90% of Caribbean

population of Common Tern nest on Aruba, 25% of Global population of Cayenne Tern nest on Aruba and 25% of Caribbean population of Black Noddy nest on Aruba, making their conservation especially important.

Breeding season

The terns breed mainly along the north coast of Aruba as well as the San Nicolas Reef Islands (No-Go conservation zones). Baby Beach is a particularly special site for terns, since this is where they



carry out their reproduction rituals. Referred to as

a "discotheque" by Natasha Silva, the point of Baby Beach near the open water is where a large group of terns spends the season searching for their partner—for life—to reproduce. In Aruba, there are ten different species of terns, all of which breed at different times. The ten species of terns that migrate to the island include the Cayenne Tern; Cabot's Tern; Common Tern; Roseate Tern; Least Tern; Brown Noddy; Black Noddy; Sooty Tern; Bridled Tern and the Royal Tern

Main threats to these seabirds are human proximity, kite-surfing, unleashed dogs, ATVs/UTVs, Jet Ski's and pollution.

How to protect them

Aruba Conservation Foundation advises everyone to keep their distance from these seabirds, do not visit the reefs, do not fly drones around nesting areas, keep your dogs on leashes, do not drive on the coastline and do not leave trash thrown about. "Nature has no boundaries and its protection is a shared responsibility."

CROSSWORD

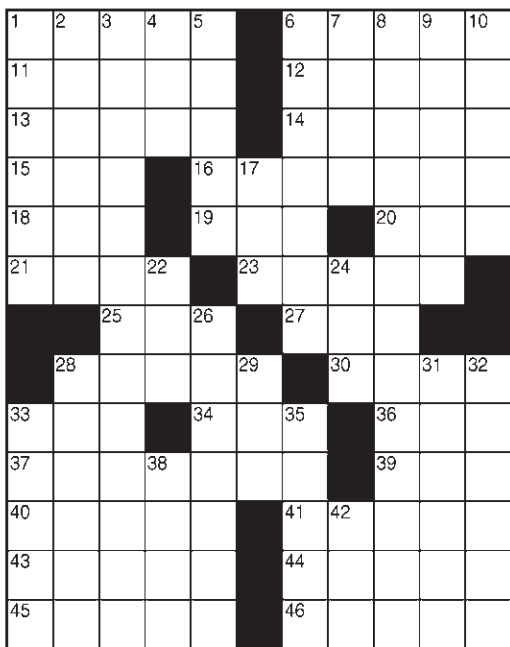
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Wipe off

- 1 Mongoose foe
6 Dark fur
11 Bars on cars
12 Makes sound
13 Swindles
14 Physics bits
15 Pouchlike part
16 Door-opening phrase
18 Tick off
19 Puppy sound
20 Sine qua —
21 Goblet part
23 Nation on the Red Sea
25 Agreeable answer
27 Singer Orbison
28 Harvests
30 Test version
33 Curtain holder
34 Saloon order
36 — Moines
37 Napoleon, for one
39 Motorist's buy
40 Spa treatments
41 Poker ploy

DOWN

- 1 Currant liqueur
2 Rustic transport
3 "Imma Be" band
4 Sleep state
5 Test for purity
6 Ticket seller, of a sort
7 Lot buy
8 Van Morrison hit of 1967
9 "The Apartment" actor
10 German steel city
17 Put down
22 "Cry — River"
24 Unruly crowd
26 Less dense
28 Horror director George
29 Start for pitch or mo
31 China collection
32 Useful skills
33 Drive off
35 Blundered
38 Different
42 Previously



1-13

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-13 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

KHWA XAPVPQS EGAEWLVSFQEPV

JHQ'S JPSPALGQP TZPAP KHW

EFQ NH. SZPK LPAPCK

JPSPALGQP TZPAP KHW VSFAS.

— QGJH BWIPGQ

Cryptoquote: I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING FROM HERE, BUT I PROMISE I WON'T BORE YOU. — DAVID BOWIE

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, su-

permarkets generally close earlier, mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
02 SAT	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
05 TUE	CELEBRITY SILHOUTTE Arrival: 08:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: B CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
06 WED	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 11:59 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
12 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
19 TUE	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
20 WED	ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: I CARNIVAL VISTA Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: C
21 THU	CARNIVAL VENEZIA Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
26 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

7		9	1			3	2	
2						7	5	6
3	5			7	2			
		2	7		9	4	6	
5			6			2		
		4	5		3	1	7	
		5	9				4	
4	2							7
	9			5	4	6	1	3

Difficulty: ★

5/11

Answer to previous puzzle

7	2	3	8	6	1	9	5	4
4	1	9	2	5	3	8	7	6
6	5	8	9	7	4	1	3	2
2	7	4	6	3	9	5	1	8
3	8	5	4	1	7	6	2	9
9	6	1	5	8	2	3	4	7
8	9	2	1	4	5	7	6	3
1	4	7	3	9	6	2	8	5
5	3	6	7	2	8	4	9	1

Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/10

AI can't replace doggie actors, director says

Las Vegas, United States

When director Robert Vince was filming "Air Bud Returns," he was impressed to see Roscoe, his four-legged star, improvising concern in a scene where two humans burst into tears.

"He's curious to what's going on," Vince told AFP. "This is real."

Having done more than a dozen productions featuring dogs, Vince says he is still impressed by the authenticity that animal actors bring to film sets.

For him, the magic of a canine performer cannot ever be replicated by artificial intelligence.

"You look at how much joy this dog, and human actors, give you, right?" he says, gesturing to Roscoe the golden retriever star of "Air Bud Returns," who is wearing a T-shirt and basketball shoes, still boundlessly enthusiastic despite greeting fans for hours.

Vince, 64, says that every technological innovation initially causes a stir and sparks curiosity among audiences.

But wizardry can only wow for so long before audiences see through it and start looking to the fundamentals again.

"I remember when visual effects really (appeared), everybody was like: 'Oh, those are so cool. We're gonna do a million superhero movies.'"

"After a while, it's like: 'Oh, I've seen that before,'" he said. "It's really about your emotional connection to the characters. There's an authenticity to this type of filmmaking that does not go away."

- Sports bark -

"Air Bud Returns," slated for release in U.S. theaters in 2027, is the latest chapter in a franchise that began in 1997 featuring a runaway circus dog who has an extraordinary ability to play basketball.

Subsequent installments took in other popular sports, including American football ("Air Bud: Golden Receiver,"), soccer ("Air Bud: World Pup") and



Roscoe, portraying Buddy the dog, promotes "Air Bud Returns" during CinemaCon at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, on April 15, 2026. Who's a good boy?

baseball ("Air Bud: Seventh Inning Fetch.")

For Vince, who spoke with AFP at the CinemaCon convention in Las Vegas, the audience reception to news of the latest production, which sees the canine hero back on the basketball court, has been "overwhelming."

"But I can't say I'm surprised," he added.

"We know from social media... that this movie was basically being begged to be made."

He says that's because "Air Bud" is a quintessential family film, one that a whole generation remembers from childhood.

"People that grew up with ("Air Bud")...are millenni-

als that were 10 years old when they saw the original one.

"They are now parents, and they have kids of their own."

And, of course, a cute-as-a-button golden retriever who can shoot hoops as well as he can act is always going to hit the mark, he said.

"It's all dog, all the time," he said of Roscoe's balling talents.

"We have an audience that grew up with the original "Air Bud" movie where there was no CGI," Vince said.

"And so we kept that promise in this movie as well."

At a time that Hollywood is grappling with the job-

killing effects of AI -- and as the organisers of the Oscars and the Golden Globes have said avatars can't win prizes -- Vince says he's confident the new technology will never displace the warmth of a real-life performer, human or animal. □



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

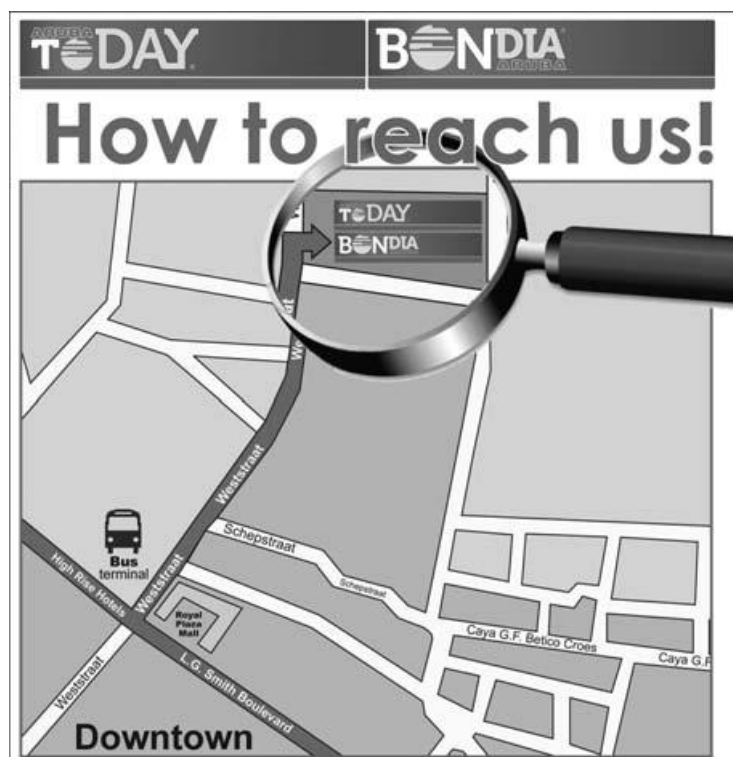
Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @ArubaTodayNews



HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital
7:00 pm/10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: del Pueblo
Tel. 582 1253

San Nicolas: Aloe
Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police 100
Police Oranjestad 527 3140
Police Noord 527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz 527 2900
Police San Nicolas 584 5000
Police Tipline 11141
Ambulance 911
Fire Dept. 115
Red Cross 582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas 587 5900
Prof. Taxi 588 0035
Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Wizards win NBA Draft Lottery to capture first pick

New York, United States

The Washington Wizards, who had the worst record in the NBA this past season, won the NBA Draft Lottery on Sunday to claim the top pick in next month's draft. Washington went 17-65 in the 2025-26 campaign, their second-worst record in team history after a 15-win season in 2023-24 -- the Wizards losing 26 of their last 27 games, including the final 10 in a row.

That gave the Wizards a 14% chance at the top pick, and they bagged the selection that that could add a star player to their struggling lineup.

The Wizards obtained star guard Trae Young from Atlanta in a January trade and power forward Anthony Davis in a February trade



Trae Young #3 listens to Anthony Davis #23 of the Washington Wizards during the fourth quarter against the Cleveland Cavaliers at Rocket Arena on April 12, 2026 in Cleveland, Ohio.

with Dallas. The top pick would be another key player in trying to bolster a squad that has not advanced past the second round of the playoffs since reaching the 1979 NBA Finals.

The Wizards have not reached the playoffs since 2021 and have not won a playoff series since 2017.

A.J. Dybantsa, a 19-year-old forward of Congolese and Jamaican origin, and Danyln Peterson, a 19-year-

old guard, are considered the most likely U.S. college stars to be taken first overall.

The NBA Draft, the annual allocation of top available talent, will be staged on June 23-24.

Utah received the second pick with Memphis third and Chicago fourth, all three clubs moving up despite longer odds of doing so in the selection process. The fifth pick went to the Los Angeles Clippers from Indiana in a trade for Croatian center Ivica Zubac. Brooklyn received the sixth pick followed in order by Sacramento, Atlanta (from New Orleans), Dallas, Milwaukee, Golden State, Oklahoma City (from the Clippers in a trade for Paul

George), Miami and Charlotte.

All 14 teams that missed the NBA playoffs were entered into the lottery, with teams that finished worst in the regular season given the best chance at landing the first selection.

Washington, Indiana (19-63) and Brooklyn (20-62) each had a 14% chance at the first choice with Utah and Sacramento, both 22-60, each having an 11.5% opportunity.

The current system ensured the worst overall team selected no lower than fifth, but concerns over late-season tanking to boost lottery hopes have led NBA commissioner Adam Silver to say there will be changes to the lottery system before next season. □

Prizmic follows Djokovic exploit by reaching Italian Open last 16

Rome, Italy

Dino Prizmic followed up knocking out Novak Djokovic from the Italian Open by beating France's Ugo Humbert 6-1, 7-5 on Sunday to reach the last 16 in Rome.

Prizmic had to qualify for the main draw but the Croatian player looks like he could be a contender after another brilliant display of power and precision on clay.

The 20-year-old raced into a 5-0 lead in the first set, which he closed out in just 28 minutes against a shellshocked Humbert, who was seeded 31st.

Such was Prizmic's dominance in the first set that he could even afford to try a trick shot between his legs and give up a point in game six.

Humbert battled back in the second set but after he gave up his serve for the third time in game 11 Prizmic closed out on his second match point.

After his superb performance on the Pietrangeli court Prizmic will face 13th seed Karen Khachanov in the next round.

"I just want to play my game and to be myself on the court and we will see," Prizmic later told reporters. "Maybe for me the goal is



Norway's Casper Ruud hits a return to Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka during the ATP Rome Open tennis tournament at Foro Italico in Rome on May 10, 2026.

to be top 30 at the end of the year but I just want to stay healthy and to play as much as I can."

As it stands Prizmic will already be up 11 places to 68th come Monday week, just before the start of the French Open, after his best ever performance in a Master 1000 tournament.

- Zverev eases through -

Alexander Zverev kept up his bid for a third title at the Foro Italico with a straight-sets win over Alexander Bublik, 6-1, 6-4 on centre

court where the threat of rain looms large.

Second seed Zverev, who was heavily beaten by Jannik Sinner in the Madrid final last weekend, will face Italy's Luciano Darderi, who beat Tommy Paul 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, in the fourth round.

Zverev barely had to get out of second gear against Bublik, who was beaten in the Madrid semis by Zverev. The German, who won the men's singles title in the Italian capital in 2017 and 2024, is on the same side of the draw as Prizmic.

"There's a lot of young guys who are playing great tennis. He's definitely one of them," he said.

"But I'm going to go match by match, I think that's the most important thing, not to look too far ahead and focus on the things that you can control."

Home hope Lorenzo Musetti will face clay court specialist Casper Ruud in the last 16 after winning a tough match with Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo 7-6 (9/7), 6-4.

Musetti was in tears at the

end of a clash which featured 81 unforced errors, and told Sky Sport that wasn't right physically without specifying what was wrong.

- Osaka eyes Swiatek clash -

Naomi Osaka will face three-time Rome champion Iga Swiatek in the last 16 of the women's tournament after easily seeing off Diana Schneider 6-1, 6-2.

The four-time Grand Slam winner beat her Russian opponent in just 54 minutes to equal her best result of a difficult season in which she was knocked out of Indian Wells and Madrid at the same stage by Aryna Sabalenka.

But with Sabalenka suffering a shock early elimination on Saturday, 15th seed Osaka could yet be a contender.

She will play Swiatek on Tuesday after the Pole swept aside Italian Elisabetta Cocciaretto 6-1, 6-0 in just over an hour.

"For me those matches are the most fun. I'm excited at the thought," said Osaka of a clash with Swiatek.

Pole Swiatek suffered her earliest exit in five appearances in Madrid last month when she retired in the third round due to □

Snedeker captures PGA Myrtle Beach Classic title

Washington, United States
Brandt Snedeker fired a five-under par 66 in Sunday's final round to win the PGA Tour Myrtle Beach Classic and snap an eight-year win drought.

The 45-year-old American, captain of the United States Presidents Cup team, captured his 10th US PGA Tour title and first since 2018 at Greensboro.

"Pretty surreal," Snedeker said. "It's really hard to win out here, so to be able to do it again at my age, at 45, is something super special, something I'm very proud of."

Snedeker finished 72 holes on 18-under 266 at Dunes Golf and Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to defeat countryman Mark Hubbard by one stroke after Hubbard made a bogey at the 18th hole.

Snedeker earned PGA Tour playing rights for the next two seasons, saying, "It's such a cool feeling to know I'll be at it for a couple more years."

But Snedeker made it clear he is not considering being a playing captain for the Americans in September at Medinah against a non-European Internationals side.

"I'm definitely not going to play in the Presidents Cup. Let's not get ahead of ourselves here," Snedeker said.

He will, however, delay a planned trip to Medinah in order to compete at the PGA Championship at Aronimink, his first major start since sharing 19th at the 2021 British Open.

"Was supposed to go up to the site next week. That's



Brandt Snedeker of the United States is presented the winners trophy after winning the ONEflight Myrtle Beach Classic 2026 at Dunes Golf & Beach Club on May 10, 2026 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

going to get pushed back," he said. "I'm excited to go up there and see the guys. It's fun to be back in a major. Let's hope I can keep the momentum going."

Snedeker birdied four of the last seven holes but made his only bogey on the 18th hole, the course's hardest.

"Eighteen was a disaster," he said. "Did a lot of great things before 18 to give myself a chance."

Hubbard, still seeking his first PGA victory, made his third birdie in four holes at 15 to reach 19-under but a three-putt bogey at 16 left him level for the lead.

At 18, Hubbard found the right rough, punched into the fairway and missed a par putt from just inside 25 feet to hand Snedeker the victory.

Americans Beau Hossler and Kevin Roy shared third on 268 with England's Aaron Rai fifth on 270.

Most top PGA Tour players were at this week's signature event at Quail Hollow. □





Come and join the FUN!
Everyday from 10am till 6pm
We have DOUBLE points

BINGO
Play Every Day
Bingo starts at 4:30PM

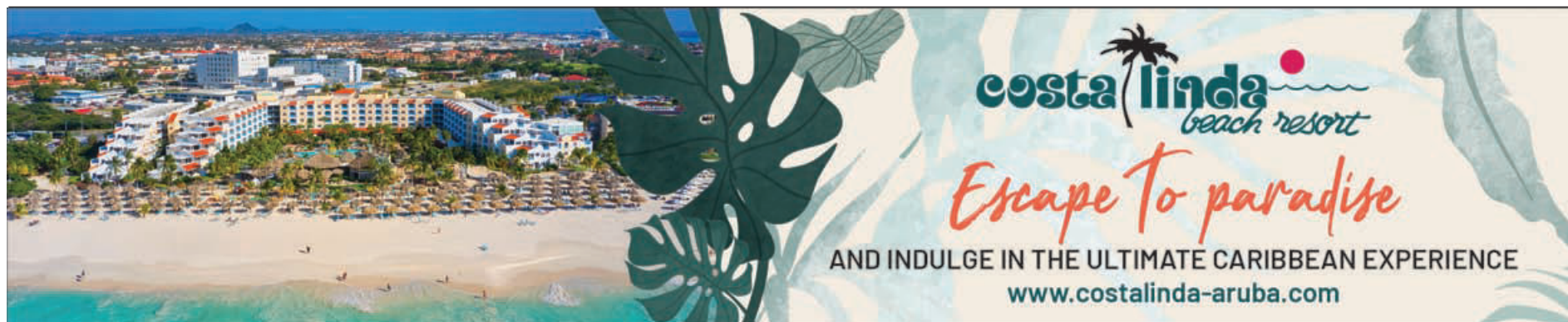
Slot Play \$10
Match Play \$15

Sign up and become a VIP Member.
ID required upon redemption!



Located at RIU Antillas. For more info call: 5257777 or Follow us on



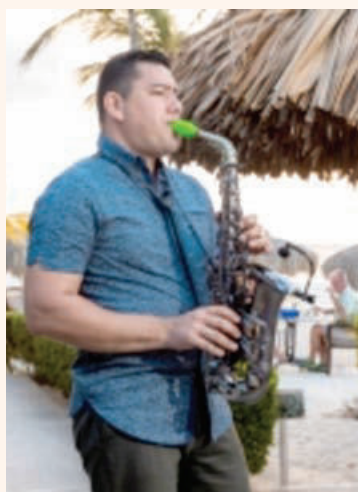



Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!

(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house



mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe to-

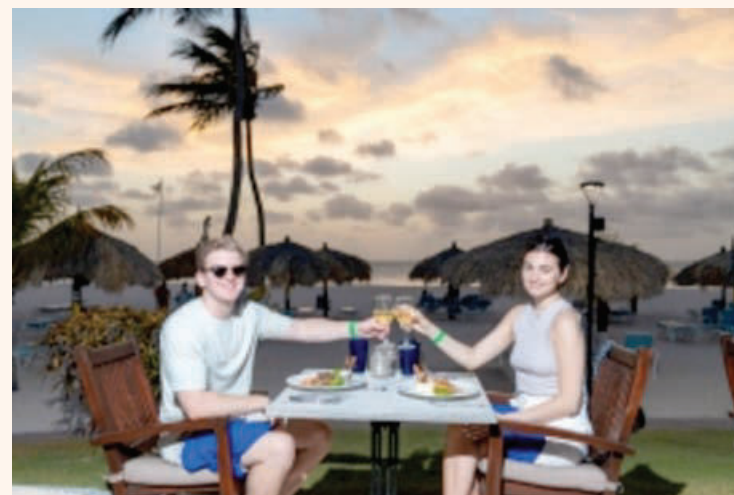
matos. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steak options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green pepper cream demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichuri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including



a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm

with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or +297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com